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[WRS 1999.003]

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Nigel Street et al.

Serial No.: 09/480,844

Filing Date: Jan. 10, 2000

Title: System and Method for Implementing a Flexible Data-Driven Target Object Model

Art Unit: 2172

Examiner: B. To

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APR 18 2003

Technology Center 2100

Address to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Date: Apr. 9, 2003

Signature: [Signature]

Joseph R. Palmieri, Reg. No. 40760

Andrew Robinson (Reg. 47,893)

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Applicant submits the following in response to the Office Action mailed October 9, 2002. No new matter has been added. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the effort in examining this application and the additional search resulting in the newly cited references.

Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that Applicant has not received (in this Office Action or the previous Office Action in this case) an initialed PTO-1449 form indicating review of the references submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement mailed January 31, 2002. Applicant has enclosed a duplicate copy of this Information Disclosure Statement with this Response. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate review

of the references cited in this Information Disclosure Statement by returning the corresponding PTO-1449 form initialed as appropriate in the next Examiner communication.

The Examiner has presently rejected claims 1-14 and 31-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,761,499 to Sonderegger et al. ("Sonderegger") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,933 to Mitchell et al. ("Mitchell"). The Examiner has also rejected claims 15-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonderegger. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this rejection based on the following.

Sonderegger describes a system for managing COM software components in a network of computers. (Sonderegger, col. 6, lines 6-7.) The system described in Sonderegger is used when a COM "client" (a user of a COM component) first attempts to locate the COM component on its local computer (the computer executing the COM client) by checking the registry of the local computer for the identifier (e.g., a UUID) of the COM component. (Id., col. 10, 31-36.) If the COM component is not found in the registry, a query is made to search a database located on a remote computer accessible over a network for the COM component identifier. (Id., col. 10, line 62 to col. 11, line 2.) The search may be performed by a search facility, such as an internet search engine. (Id., col. 11, lines 2-5.) If the COM component identifier is found in the database, its location information is extracted from the database, and the component is transferred from its location to the COM client's local computer. (Id., col. 11, lines 11-17, lines 26-28.) The registry of the local computer is updated with the identifier of the COM component. (Id., col. 11, lines 40-42.)

Mitchell describes a system whereby "the user interface portion of [an] application program can be delivered to the computer user either on the same machine on which the application is executing or on another machine remote from the machine executing the application." (Mitchell, col. 2, lines 13-17.) An "application independent client process (AICP)" executes on a user workstation, specifically described as a "plug-in" to a web browser. (Id., col. 3, lines 52-55.) The user may send a web page request over the Internet which includes "a request to execute an application program on the web server computer system." (Id., col. 4, lines 8-11.) An "application independent server process (AISP) . . . receives information contained in this request and responds by executing the desired application program." (Id., col. 4, lines 11-15.) The AICP interprets a downloaded "description file" and renders a graphical user interface (GUI) on the user computer. (Id., col. 4, lines 35-37.) The "description file" is described as

using XML format and including the GUI layout description and connection information. (Id., col. 5, lines 51-54.)

In contrast to Sonderegger and Mitchell, the present invention as recited in claim 15, includes an object database including a set of object description files and a set of data retrieval programs, the set of object description files including at least one object description file corresponding to an object selected by the client, the set of data retrieval programs including at least one data retrieval program corresponding to the target system. Likewise, the present invention as recited in claim 31 includes retrieving object data from the target system for an object selected by a client, the retrieval performed by using one of the set of data retrieval programs corresponding to the target system. Neither Sonderegger nor Mitchell describe an object database including a set of data retrieval programs including at least one data retrieval program corresponding to the target system, or a method including retrieving object data from the target system for an object selected by a client, the retrieval performed by using one of the set of data retrieval programs corresponding to the target system.

The present invention as recited in claims 1 and 35 include

- receiving target system information from the target system;
- retrieving a set of object description files corresponding to the target system information;
- sending to a client a set of objects supported based on the set of object description files retrieved;
- ...
- retrieving one of a set of data retrieval programs corresponding to the target system information;
- retrieving object data about the selected object using the retrieved one of the set of data retrieval programs;
- decoding the object data about the user selected object using the selected one of the set of object description files corresponding to the selected object to form decoded object data

....

Neither Sonderegger nor Mitchell describe retrieving one of a set of a data retrieval programs corresponding to the target system information, and retrieving object data about the selected

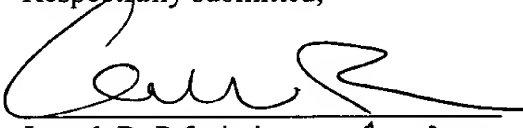
object using the retrieved one of the set of data retrieval programs. Furthermore, neither Sonderegger nor Mitchell describe sending to a client a set of objects supported based on the set of object description files retrieved, or decoding the object data about the user selected object using the selected one of the set of object description files corresponding to the selected object to form decoded object data.

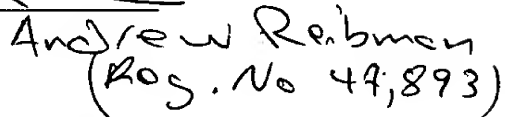
As Applicant believes neither Sonderegger or Mitchell (alone or in combination) teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 1, 15, 31 and 35, Applicant believes that claims 1, 15, 31 and 35 are patentable over Sonderegger and Mitchell. Since claims 2-14 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 (and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 1), claims 16-30 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 15 (and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 15), and claims 32-34 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 31 (and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 31), Applicant also believes claims 2-14, 16-30 and 32-34 to be patentable over Sonderegger and Mitchell as well.

In light of the foregoing, claims 1-35 are believed to be in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, a early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner desire further discussion of Applicant's remarks, Applicant (via the undersigned) is available for telephonic interview at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Apr. 9, 2003


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RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

Enclosed please find a Response to the Office Action mailed October 9, 2002.

Applicants respectfully request a **three-month extension of time** for responding to the Office Action. The extended period for response expires on April 9, 2003. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) extension fee of **\$930.00** to the deposit account of **Kenyon & Kenyon**, deposit account number 11-0600. No further fee is believed to be due. However, if any additional fee is required, please use Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed for charging purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Apr 9, 2003



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